(b) Does not arise.

(c) During the last year (2004-05) there was no rail/road transport through trade channel scheme.

Wrong billing of telephones in Bilaspur

†3108. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people at large are facing great difficulty due to the long waiting list of WLL connections in rural areas of the country and delivery of wrong bills of telephones installed under WLL service;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more such complaints are being received from Bilaspur area of Chhattisgarh State; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) BSNL maintains waiting list for fixed line connections. WLL connections are provided for those waitlisted applicants for fixed lines who are residing in remote areas more than 5Km from an exchange and in terrain suitable for WLL. No difficulties have been reported due to incorrect billing of WLL telephone connections in the country;

(b) 11 complaints were received in Bilaspur area during the year 2004-05, till 15.02.2005. All have been settled and none is pending.

(c) Bills are being issued as per normal schedule. Efforts are made to settle the complaints, if any, promptly.

Privatisation of post offices

3109. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to permit private operators to run post offices in rural areas and in the regions where there are very few post offices;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is the motivation of Government to slowly privatise post offices which have served so well the poor and middle class people; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.